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occasionally, though rarely, show when obstacles are put in the way of their carrying out their usual plan of action. Some wasps always put exactly five half-dead caterpillars in the cell of a male grub and ten in the cell of the female. Does this show that they can count? If not, it shows that they can do something else which answers the purpose just as well. Ants always recognize the members of their own community, though they may be 500,000 in number; this is not done by means of any sign or password, for it can still be done when the one recognized is senseless from intoxication. Experiments which were taken as showing that bees have a special sense of direction are proved to be quite inconclusive; the returning to the hive must have been done by mere recognition of known objects. There is an admirable résumé of the discussion as to whether the eyelets of compound eyes give each the whole image or only a small part of it; the latter opinion is plainly made out to be the better one. Lubbock regards it as mysterious that the rods and cones of the vertebrate eye should point outwards instead of inwards, though he says that it has some connection with development. It is difficult to see how there could have been any other arrangement, when it is remembered that the vertebrate eye is first a bladder and then a double cup pushed forward from the brain, instead of being a depression in the outer integument. The reason for this development, according to Balfour and Carrière, is simply that the portion of the ectoderm which was destined to give rise to the eyes has, in vertebrates, already been drawn in to form the brain. Neither is it mysterious that animals should see ultra-violet rays of light which to us are indistinguishable from blackness. There is good reason to believe that the reason we do not see ultra-violet is because the ultra-violet rays are strongly absorbed by the refracting media of the eye; an animal with a smaller eye would naturally not suffer so much from this inconvenience.

C. L. F.

Zum Mass der Schallstärke. DR. PAUL STARKE. Wundt's Philos. Stud. V. 1. 1888.

In completion of a former study on the question of the relation of the height of fall and of the weight of a falling body to the intensity of the sound that it produces, the author reports the verification of his former results. He finds that within the limits of error the sound is directly proportional to the height, with a constant weight, and to the weight, with a constant height. The different results of former investigators arose from their neglect of the influence of the order in time of the standard sounds and those to be compared, and of the influence of Weber's law. The sounds were produced by the fall of ivory balls of 8.07 and 16.12 grams weight, on an ebony plate from heights of from 100 to 600 mm.

Tonstärkmessung. ERNST GRIMSEHL. Wiedemann's Annalen, No. 8b, 1888. Also *in extenso* in Programmabhandlung des Realgymnasiums zu Hamburg, 1888.

Starting from an observation of Lord Rayleigh's that thin plates in a resonant column of air tend to place themselves perpendicular to the axis of the column, the author has constructed a phonometer in which the degree of rotation of a thin disk of mica measures the